

4. THE MIDDLE AGES

Pages 84-103

THE ISLAMIC GOLDEN AGE (P86)

DISCUSS: What are the different religions of your friends? How many people do you know of a different faith?

'The key thing, in a Golden Age, is balance.' (Page 87)

DISCUSS: What is important to you? What are your values?

ACTIVITY: Create a mission statement for your family encompassing your family values.

'They recognised that the Ancient Greeks were brilliant at maths and talking about ideas.' (Page 88)

RESEARCH: What were the ideas of the Ancient Greeks? Pick one and describe in a couple of paragraphs how it has had a lasting effect and impacted our modern world. Eg. Democracy, geometry, theatre.

RESEARCH: Find out about one of the Islamic Golden Age amazing buildings. Create a poster about it. Remember to include details about its purpose, the materials it was made with, and how it has survived.

DISCUSS: At the end of this section, the author asks you to have a go about creating your own Golden Age. Perhaps start with balance in your own life. Think about how you balance work and play, food and exercise, using and conserving energy? Now you can extrapolate this to society as a whole.

HOW SHORT AND HARD LIFE WAS (AND HOW PAINFUL AS WELL) (P89)

ACTIVITY: Make a gratitude list, listing the everyday things for which you are grateful.

ACTIVITY: If a time traveller came from the Middle Ages to your house, what would you show them first. Write an introduction to the modern world for your visitor. What would you include?



WHAT WERE MONASTERIES FOR? (P94)

'If you were inventing a monastery where you could live with your friends, what would it be like?' (Page 99)

ACTIVITY: Create your own monastery. What is the ethos? What are the rules? Draw up a tourist guide suggesting why it might be a good place to visit.

DISCUSS: Can you think of any societies or institutions today that act in a similar way to these monasteries of The Middle Ages. E.g., Kibbutz? Is this way of life appealing?

WHAT OLD MAPS TELL YOU (P100)

ACTIVITY: Make a map of your local area. Don't try to be accurate on scale. You may wish to make those things larger that are more important to you, such as your home, your school, favourite places.

ACTIVITY: Which other maps could you make? Be inventive. Take a world map and create a new map from it – you might want to create an animal map, with pictures on the countries they are from, or famous people or monuments, football grounds or population sizes.

ACTIVITY: Draw a map of your ideal island. Is there a beach? A theme park? A forest?

ACTIVITY: Draw a map of yourself. Perhaps you have a good drawing hand, or a footballer's foot. Label the different areas.



Part Three: Ancient History, and Part Four: The Middle Ages, have taught us further big ideas about ourselves, but also about how we interact with other people. This is one of the key things that makes us human.

